

The Presbyterian of the South

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Church News

VIRGINIA.

Richmond: The Assembly's Training School for Lay Workers held its commencement exercises last Thursday at the Grace-Covenant church. A most excellent and appropriate address to the students was delivered by Rev. Dr. H. H. Sweets, of Louisville, Ky. Rev. Dr. Walter Lingle spoke most encouragingly of the outlook for the school. The Dean of the faculty, Rev. Wm. Megginson, announced that the school had enrolled 70 students for the past session. This is said to be a larger number of students than was ever enrolled in the third year of any similar institution in this country. When about five or six years ago Rev. Dr. W. W. Moore first proposed the establishment of such a school, there were a great many people who did not believe that it was needed and many others who felt that it could not be maintained. The number of students who have been enrolled shows that the young people of the church are anxious for the training which this school gives. The fact that all of the ten graduates of this year have already been engaged for permanent work shows that the church is looking for trained workers. This school has an exceptionally fine faculty, composed, besides the Dean, of members of the faculty of Union Theological Seminary and of the leading pastors of the Richmond churches. All of these men are doing the work without financial compensation, except the Dean, who gives all of his time to the school. For the first three years of its existence the cost of running this school was guaranteed and provided by the Presbyterians of Richmond. This was done in accordance with a condition imposed by the General Assembly, before it would agree to its being started. The terms of that agreement have been met and now the school will look to the church at large for increased support. Richmond will continue to do a great deal for it, but it cannot do all that is needed. The greatest need of the school is suitable buildings. A very suitable and attractive site of several acres has been provided very near Union Seminary, and it is hoped that it may not be very long before the Training School will be housed in its own building, instead of having to occupy unsatisfactory rented buildings. This school is controlled by a Board of Directors appointed by the General Assembly. Besides the local members there were

present at this commencement Rev. Dr. S. H. Chester, Rev. Dr. Homer McMillan, Rev. Dr. H. H. Sweets and Rev. Dr. John S. Lyons.

—First Church: In the absence of the pastor, Rev. Dr. F. T. McFaden, the pulpit was occupied last Sunday, both morning and night by Rev. Dr. W. L. Lingle, of Union Seminary, who preached two excellent sermons.

Franklin: Dr. R. B. Eggleston, superintendent of Home Missions and Sunday-schools of Norfolk Presbytery, came to Franklin this week, worked among the people, preached here, gathered the Presbyterians together and organized a Sunday-school. He also got a petition signed by 15 people to be sent up to Norfolk Presbytery requesting the organization of a Presbyterian church at Franklin, Va. This opens up an entirely new field of activity in Norfolk Presbytery. No efforts before this have been made, certainly in recent years, looking to the organization of a Presbyterian Church or Sunday-school.

Margaret Garnett, Secretary.

Marshall Group: Rev. V. G. Starbuck, of Plumtree, N. C., has been called to this group of churches and has accepted the call. He hopes to begin work there this month.

W. R. McElroy.

Concord Depot: Just after the recent stated meeting of Roanoke Presbytery we had Rev. Roy Smith, of Ararat, Va., to tell us of the Assembly's Home Mission work in his field in the southwestern part of Patrick county, Va., where there have been lately organized three mission churches, one of which has already completed its church building and the others are in the midst of an effort to build. Our people at Rustburg, New Concord and Red Oak (a mission point where we have a Sabbath-school every Sunday and a preaching service once a month), became deeply interested as he told us in his simple, earnest way of the mountain work, and made a generous response to aid these recently formed churches in completing the erection of their buildings. We wish we could have these Home Mission brethren visit us oftener to tell us of their work. It would interest us more deeply and stimulate our zeal in this great pioneer work. Some of the officers and members of New Concord church and one of the elders of Rustburg church have lately given their pastor and his wife a very generous donation of ham, flour, meal, molasses, potatoes, lard, fruit, peas, corn and feed for horse and cow, for which we wish to express our very grateful appreciation. Such thoughtfulness, especially in this day of high cost of living, does a pastor's heart good, and is a stimulus and encouragement to him in his work as an under-shepherd of the great Shepherd and Bishop of souls. As the people minister thus faithfully to him in temporal things, he is incited to greater fidelity and zeal in ministering to them in holy things. J. M. W. Elder, Pastor.

Woodstock: The culmination of the old year's work and the opening of the new brings to light several facts of interest and encouragement in this church. The church has a rather remarkable record of having reached every Foreign Mission goal suggested to it during the present pastorate. The past year it was \$1,260, the annual cost of a missionary, and the voluntary offerings, without personal solicitation, came within \$4 of that amount, the larger part of this being given through the Try Company, a young people's society, under the efficient leadership of Miss Lucy C. Ott. Most of the members of the church, however, are contributors to the society's annual offering. The

Rev. Dr. R. H. Fleming, who organized the society during his pastorate here thirty-nine years ago, made the address at the recent anniversary. The total gifts to all benevolent causes was \$24.28 per member and to local expenses \$9.79, making \$34.07 per member for all purposes. An event of more than usual interest was the recent graduation of a class of fifteen in teacher training. The Woodstock people have shown unflinching thoughtfulness and liberality toward their pastor and his household and have recently added to all their kindnesses a \$200 increase in the salary.

APPALACHIA.

Stonewall Jackson College, Abingdon, Va., will hold its commencement May 27-30, 1917. The baccalaureate sermon will be preached Sunday, the 27th, at 11:30 A. M., by the Rev. John T. Thomas, D. D., pastor of the First Presbyterian church, Louisville, Ky.; the sermon to the Y. W. C. A. will be preached by Dr. Thomas Sunday evening at 8 o'clock; the Alumnae Association will meet Monday, the 28th, at 3 P. M.; matinee recital, Monday, the 28th, at 4 P. M.; meeting of the Board of Trustees, Monday, 28th, at 3 P. M.; commencement exercises, with the inauguration of the new president, at 10:30 A. M. Tuesday.

The old buildings were burned to the ground in November, 1914. Acting with that resolve born of an inspiration, the trustees decided to bring forth out of the ashes a greater Stonewall Jackson school.

Nothing daunted them, and they applied for a charter for an A Grade college, and it was at once organized as Stonewall Jackson College. In addition to all this, they called in friends to help in its upbuilding and extension until now they have behind it the Appalachian Synod and Montgomery Presbytery of the Synod of Virginia, and it is their only A Grade college for women. This same energy and enthusiasm which moved the trustees in that great resolve continued to distinguish their management in the development of plans and keeping the College open until it is now pleasantly housed in an up-to-date building, one of a convenient and complete group on a new, larger and more attractive site. In addition to all this, subscriptions have been, and are still being, taken to entirely complete grounds, buildings and equipment as already planned with the very best thought of the needs and efficiency of the College. Of the \$100,000 undertaken to be raised now by the trustees, over \$80,000 has been subscribed and \$30,000 of what has been subscribed has been paid.

The new life and extended opportunities of the school are meeting with hearty approval from friends of the College all over the country from New York to California. Realizing that "Stonewall" is better prepared to accommodate, train and educate young women than ever before, parents are already planning for next year, and the management expects to fill the new dormitory in September, 1917, with ninety-eight young women. The success attending this undertaking will necessitate additional room and carefully designed plans have been drawn for an administration building, which the trustees hope and expect to erect soon. J. R. D.

ALABAMA.

Bellemina: The "Culdee" Presbyterian church is located near Bellemina, Ala., one of our small country churches, having nine members and one officer, an elder, and having now no supply. They have a nice church building, also a small but an aggres-

sive Sunday-school, with one of their earnest and efficient women as superintendent. The membership is much scattered, living from two to five miles from the church. We were favored most of the time during the meeting with good weather and roads. The attendance both day and night was most encouraging and the interest steadily increased. We visited more than forty families, having prayer in each home; addressed the school, and held two services for the laborers on the farms. There were nine members received, all adults except two, increasing the membership 100 per cent. Two little children were baptized. Some promised to erect family altars, several declared their purpose to join other churches, and many pledged themselves to better lives. Two officers were elected, ordained and installed: as elder, Mr. L. J. Pitts, and as deacon, Mr. Luke Pryor. I go from here to Birmingham, Ala., to assist Rev. G. W. Tollett in a meeting. The sum of \$41.71 was given for incidentals and the evangelistic work. The "Culdee" church pledged \$250 for one-fourth of a minister's time.

William H. Richardson.

ARKANSAS.

Monticello: The reports to spring meeting of Presbytery were the best of the present pastorate of six years. There were 45 accessions, of which 34 were on examination. Our Sunday-school almost meets the requirements of the General Assembly's standard of efficiency. \$1,300.00 were disbursed for benevolence, \$4,900.00 for all other causes. The Every Member Canvass for this year was the best since the operation of our plan of finances during five years. The pastor was voted a \$300 raise in salary. Our professions last year came as a result of the church's own evangelistic efforts from week to week, and we plan to emphasize evangelism there this year. Frank Hall Wright will lead in a union meeting for us in July.

Flournoy Shepperson.

GEORGIA.

Atlanta is trying to get Billy Sunday to hold a meeting there, and has sent a strong committee to New York to carry him the invitation. Among the number who composed the committee were Rev. D. H. Ogden and Mr. John J. Eagan of the Central church.

Jonesboro: Rev. N. B. Mathes, for several years pastor here, resigned his charge last fall, but has continued to supply the church till the present, but is now open to a call elsewhere.

Hapeville-Jonesboro-Concord group, in Atlanta Presbytery, has called Rev. J. Carl Rhodes, of the senior class at Clarksville Seminary. He has accepted and will enter upon his work the third Sabbath in May. The people are looking forward to his coming with great interest.

Columbus: The reports from the First church show that the last ecclesiastical year was one of the best in its history. There were fifty-six additions to the communion and thirty-three of these were on confession of their faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. There were thirty-one baptisms, of which seventeen were infants. Membership of the church 610, and of the Sunday-school 430. Contributions for Foreign Missions, \$3,125; for other benevolent causes, \$2,835; for causes not benevolent, \$3,500; for current expenses, \$4,815; for all causes, \$14,275. During the year the session was strengthened by four additional elders and six young men were added to the Board of Deacons. The church now has twenty-five active elders and deacons. Cor.

(Continued on page 17.)